6)

SIR JOSEPH BANKS AGAIN:

QUEEN CHARLOTTE, AND SOME CANADIAN LOCAL NAMES; A SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE.

By REV. HENRY SCADDING, D.D.

A few years ago I printed in pamphlet form a letter addressed to Sir Joseph Banks, President of the Royal Society of Great Britain from 1777 to 1820, by Lieut.-Gov. Simcoe, prior to his leaving England for the as yet non-existent Province of Upper Canada; in which letter the Governor lays before the learned President, confidentially, his views of the principles and practices which should give character to the new territory about to be organized by him. As detailed in my preliminary remarks, I obtained possession of a manuscript copy of this letter, made by the hand of a member of the Simcoe family, and it seemed all the more important in consequence of the fact that it is not to be found in the manuscript series of the Simcoe papers, preserved in the Parliamentary library at Ottawa. Many persons, as I have reason to know, have been interested in this reprint, which bears the date of 1890. When the papers of Sir Joseph Banks were offered for sale by the eminent London dealer, Mr. John Waller, the original of this identical letter was in the collection, and I did my best to get possession of it, but failed. I secured, however, from among Sir Joseph's papers, an original manuscript document, which is curious, as showing the friendly and even intimate relations subsisting between Sir Joseph and

the royal family of the day, and which I should certainly have given somewhere or other in the pamphlet of 1890, had I at that time been in possession of it; especially as the name of its writer is to some extent associated with the local nomenclature of Ontario. The manuscript document in question is an autograph letter from no less a personage than Queen Charlotte, consort of George III., and written throughout by her own hand. It would appear that it had been the Queen's custom to present to Sir Joseph, through Lady Banks, at the close of the year, the homely gift of a Christmas cake. In 1813, as Sir Joseph had been suffering from a severe attack of gout, the Queen forwards to him along with the cake a recipe for the malady which she affirms had been effectual in the case of a certain gentleman whom she names. This recipe consisted, strange to say, of a charm, supplied from Golconda, in the East, and procured thence at the special request of the Queen. The whole document reads as follows. It is addressed to Lady Banks and is dated at Windsor, Dec. 19, 1813:

"The Queen sends Lady Banks a Christmas cake, which she hopes Sr. Joseph will find as much to his taste as the one of last year.

"She also accompanies it with a Charm for the Gout, the Effect of which, if report speaks Truth, is wonderfull. Collonel Strangways, uncle to Lord Illchester, has been free from that Tormenting Complaint ever since he wore it, which is about nine Months ago, it is to be worn round the Neck, as it is now prepared. It comes from *Golconda*, and was procured for the Queen by a Lady, who by her Desire wrote for it, and the Queen wishes most Sincerely that it may prove as Beneficial to Sr. Joseph as it has given her pleasure to obtain it.

"CHARLOTTE."

It would be curious to speculate as to what the scientific President of the Royal Society thought of such a fanciful remedy for the gout, but out of deference to the wish of the benevolent donor Sir Joseph may have placed it around his neck, and may possibly, through the power of the imagination, have enjoyed some of the happy effects experienced by Colonel Strangways. The note was enclosed in a very informal cover, addressed "To Sir Joseph Banks, Spring Grove, near Hounslow." The impression of a seal bearing the royal arms, in red wax, appears on the envelope in the usual position. It will be of some interest to add that the name of Queen Charlotte, consort of George III., is associated with local nomenclature employed in Canada. The names given to streets in the first plan of York, now Toronto, were, as is well known, tributes of loyalty to the reigning family, on the part of the founder of Upper Canada, Governor Simcoe, in 1793. King street was an allusion to the King, George street referred to his eldest son, afterwards the regent; Caroline street was so named from Caroline, wife of the regent; Frederic street preserved the name of the regent's brother, Frederic, Duke of York, after whom Duke street was so named; Duchess street was a compliment to his wife; while Queen street, early applied to a leading thoroughfare of the place, must be taken to commemorate Queen Charlotte herself—a street extending, at the present day, almost in a right line, all the way from the Humber Bay in the west, to Victoria Park in the east, a mile or two beyond Ashbridge's Bay. Princess street was originally Princes street, having reference to the other brothers of the Duke. The example thus early set has been followed. Two additional queenly names, Adelaide street and Victoria street have become familiar expressions, whilst Albert

street, Edward street, Louisa street, Alice street, also derive their names from members of the Royal family.

Moreover, Queenston, so familiar to the tourist up the Niagara River, is another memorial of George III.'s Queen Charlotte. The name of this place was at the outset Queenstown, as we learn from D. W. Smith's First Gazetteer of Upper Canada, 1796, wherein, p. 129, we have the information that "Queenstown is situated upon the Niagara River, about seven miles above Newark; it is at the head of the navigation for ships, and the portage occasioned by the falls of Niagara commences here."

Charlottenburgh, an early township name now disused, was also intended to be a memorial of the good Queen. The authoritative work just quoted informs us, p. 62, that "Charlottenburgh, the township of, is on the River St. Lawrence, and in the County of Glengarry, being the second township in ascending." This Germanized name having reference to the Queen fell early into disuse, along with several other names of the same class which once figured on our maps.

Off the coast of British Columbia, now become a portion of Canada, the Queen Charlotte Islands still retain the name of the old queen without any change or ambiguity.

The canvas house which figures so largely in the history of York and Governor Simcoe may once have given shelter to Sir Joseph Banks within its textile walls, but not in Canada. This moveable residence was, we are assured, originally constructed for the use of Captain Cook and his party, while circumnavigating the globe, when engaged in making scientific observations in various parts thereof. Sir Joseph was, as we know, a companion of Captain Cook in some of these expeditions.